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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,398	12/19/2001	Michael L. White	5058US (01-01-132)	2055

7590 05/21/2003

Martin J Hirsch
Marshall Gerstein & Borun
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606-6402

EXAMINER

CAPRON, AARON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3714	8

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/029,398	WHITE, MICHAEL L.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Aaron J. Capron	3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5 . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as clearly anticipated by Tracy et al. (PG Pub 2002/0187825; hereafter “Tracy”).

Referring to claims 1-2 and 7, Tracy discloses raffle or pool that provides a range of player selectable numbers (2:27), opportunity to select a number (3:35) a computer randomly selects a winning number (4:38 and 4:40) and determining at least one winning player comprises a player who has selected a number (player gets the 100 number ticket) that is closer to the winning number than any other number selected by any other player of the plurality (10:77).

Referring to claim 3, Tracy discloses determining at least one winning player comprises determining a plurality of winning players (10:77, a player getting number 100 and another player getting number 101)

Referring to claim 4, Tracy discloses apportioning the award among the plurality of winning players (7:54)

Referring to claim 5, Tracy discloses the numbers are linear or continuous (3:30)

Referring to claim 6, Tracy discloses requiring players of the plurality to tender a wager to enable the opportunity to select at least one number within the range of numbers (abstract).

Referring to claim 8, Tracy discloses requiring players of the plurality to actuate a selection submission input confirmation element in order to effect submission of each number selection (4:36).

Referring to claim 9, Tracy discloses administering the game over a network comprising a plurality of gaming terminals, each gaming terminal having a communication link to a central controller (Figure 1).

Referring to claim 10, Tracy discloses providing a range of player selectable numbers; providing an opportunity for each of a plurality of players to select at least one number within the range of player selectable numbers; displaying the selections made by the plurality of players substantially in real time (1:13); providing at least one additional opportunity for each of the plurality of players to select at least one additional number within the range of player selectable numbers (4:38); terminating all opportunities for players of the plurality to select numbers (7:53, countdown to zero); randomly determining a winning number from the range of player selectable numbers; determining at least one winning player and making an award to the player.

Claims 11-17 and 19-20 correspond in scope to a method set forth for use of the method listed in the claims above and are encompassed by use as set forth in the rejection above.

Referring to claim 18, Tracy discloses providing a sensory notification to all players of each submission of each number selection by any player of the plurality (Figure 3A).

Referring to claim 21, Tracy discloses enabling each player to play the game at a gaming terminal accessed by another person the player's behalf (5:45).

Referring to claim 22, Tracy discloses enabling each player to play the game via a PC serving as a gaming terminal and operably connected to the network via the Internet (4:41 and 4:44)

Referring to claims 23-24, Tracy discloses display a termination notification to notify players that the game is about to terminate (7:53 and 8:61; notification that the countdown is reaching 0).

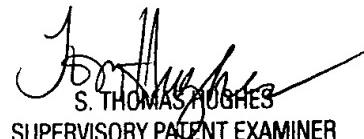
Claims 25-35 correspond in scope to a gaming system set forth for use of the method listed in the claims above and are encompassed by use as set forth in the rejection above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron J. Capron whose telephone number is (703) 305-3520. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on (703) 308-1806. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.



S. THOMAS HUGHES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

ajc
May 16, 2003